

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **Cancelled.**
2. **Cancelled.**
3. **(Currently Amended)** A method for treatment to reduce the extent of normotrophic scarring on the skin which comprises applying across a wound on the surface of the skin during wound repair a single application of a pharmaceutical composition or biomaterial comprised of at least one hyaluronic acid derivative selected from the group consisting of ~~an a 50-80% benzyl ester with an alcohol, an auto-crosslinked ester, a crosslinked derivative, a hemiester of succinic acid with~~ of hyaluronic acid, and an auto-crosslinked ester of hyaluronic acid ~~an O-sulphated derivative and an O/N sulphated derivative,~~ optionally in association with at least one additional pharmacologically or biologically active compound.
4. **(Currently Amended)** An efficacious method for reducing the extent of wounds to the skin comprising applying to the wound an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition or biomaterial comprised of at least one hyaluronic acid derivative selected from the group consisting of an ester with benzyl ~~an alcohol, and an autocrosslinked ester and an O-sulphated derivative,~~ optionally in combination with at least one additional pharmacological or biologically active compound.
5. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 4, wherein said wound reduction results in reduced normotrophic scarring.
6. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 3, wherein the hyaluronic acid derivative is a 65-80% benzyl ~~an ester of hyaluronic acid wherein a part or all of the carboxy functions are esterified with an alcohol of the aliphatic, aromatic, arylaliphatic, cycloaliphatic, and heterocyclic series.~~

7. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 3, wherein the derivative of hyaluronic acid is an autocross-linked ester of hyaluronic acid wherein part or all of the carboxy groups are esterified with the alcoholic function of the same hyaluronic acid chain or other chains.
8. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to any one of claims 3, 4 and 7~~claim 3~~, wherein the hyaluronic acid derivative is a autocross-linked compound-ester of hyaluronic acid wherein 5% of the carboxy groups are involved in autocross-linking~~part or all of the carboxy groups are esterified with a polyalcohol of the aliphatic, aromatic, arylaliphatic, cycloaliphatic heterocyclic series, generating cross-linking by means of spacer chains~~.
9. **(Cancelled)** ~~The method according to claim 3, wherein the hyaluronic acid derivative is an hemiester of succinic acid or a heavy metal salt of the hemiester of succinic acid with hyaluronic acid or with a partial or total ester of hyaluronic acid.~~
10. **(Cancelled)** ~~The method according to claim 3, wherein the hyaluronic acid derivative is an O-sulphated or O/N-sulphated derivative.~~
11. **(Cancelled)** ~~The method according to claim 3, wherein the hyaluronic acid derivative is an amide derivative of hyaluronic acid.~~
12. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to any one of claims 3-4 and 7-8~~and 5-11~~, wherein the hyaluronic acid derivative is in the form of a gel, sponge, non-woven fabric, thread, perforated or non-perforated membrane, microsphere, nanosphere, gauze pad or a combination thereof.

13. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to any one of claims 3-8 and 5-11, wherein the pharmacologically or biologically active substance is an antibiotic, growth factor, antimicotic, antimicrobial, antiviral agent, disinfectant, phospholipid or anaesthetic.
14. **(Currently Amended)** A method for treating scarring of the skin which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof an effective scar treatment amount of at least one hyaluronic acid derivative selected from the group consisting of a benzyl ester of hyaluronic acid and an auto-crosslinked ester of hyaluronic acid.
15. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 3-14, wherein the hyaluronic acid derivative is an auto-crosslinked ester of hyaluronic acid wherein a part or all of the carboxy ~~functions~~ groups are esterified with an alcohol ~~of the aliphatic or aromatic series~~ group of the same or different hyaluronic acid claims.
16. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 3-15, wherein the hyaluronic acid derivative is an auto-crosslinked ester of hyaluronic acid wherein 5% a part or all of the carboxy functions groups are esterified with benzyl alcohol involved in crosslinking.
17. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 3-14, wherein the hyaluronic acid derivative is an ester of hyaluronic acid wherein 75% of the carboxy functions are esterified with benzyl alcohol.
18. **(Currently Amended)** A method for the treatment of normotrophic scarring on the skin which comprises applying to the treatment area an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one hyaluronic acid derivative, selected from the group consisting of a benzyl ester of hyaluronic acid and an auto-crosslinked ester of hyaluronic acid wherein said pharmaceutical composition is in the form of a gel, a guide channel, a sponge, a thread, a perforated or non-perforated membrane, a microsphere, a nanosphere and a gauze.

19. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim ~~17~~18, wherein said extent of normotrophic scarring is reduced by 40% compared to areas treated with hyaluronic acid.
20. **(New)** The method according to claim 18, wherein the hyaluronic acid derivative is an auto-crosslinked ester of hyaluronic acid wherein a part or all of the carboxy groups are esterified with an alcohol group of the same or different hyaluronic acid claims
21. **(New)** The method according to claim 20, wherein the hyaluronic acid derivative is an auto-crosslinked ester of hyaluronic acid wherein 5% of the carboxy groups are involved in crosslinking.
22. **(New)** The method according to claim 18, wherein the hyaluronic acid derivative is a benzyl ester of hyaluronic acid wherein 75% of the carboxy functions are esterified with benzyl alcohol.